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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/772,607	02/05/2004	Melvin J. Guiles	07198.85607-001	5064
24335	7590	07/21/2004	EXAMINER	
WARNER NORCROSS & JUDD LLP 900 FIFTH THIRD CENTER 111 LYON STREET, N.W. GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503-2487			PATEL, KIRAN B	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	3612

DATE MAILED: 07/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/772,607	GUILES, MELVIN J.
	Examiner Kiran B. Patel	Art Unit 3612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 June 2004.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 14-21 and 23-26 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 23-26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 14-21 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Non-Final Rejection

Election/Restriction

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group IV, Species A, Fig 1-3, and claims 1-8, 14-21, is acknowledged.

Claims 9-13, 23-26, are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected Species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

During a telephone interview with Mr. Kleinheksel the election was further discussed and amended to: cancel method claims 1-13 (Class 72); all apparatus claims 14-21, 23-26 will be examined in this application; elected apparatus claims 14-21 readable on species A; claims 23-26 rejoined at allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be

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patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 14-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al. (5,934,544) in view of Goto et al. (6,591,577).

Regarding claim 14-21, Lee et al. (5,934,544) discloses the invention as claimed to include an elongated beam 8; a first 14 and a second 16 lateral portions terminating in first 60 and second 62 lateral edges being connected along their lengths to said beam (Fig 3B, col 7, lines 44-46; a lateral portion 14 welded closed to form at least part of a first closed configuration, said second portion 16 welded closed to form a second closed configuration; and a lateral portion Fig 3B.

However, Lee et al. (5,934,544) does not disclose first and second brackets and first and second lateral portions are connected to one another along a line separate from said first and second lateral edges.

Goto et al. (6,591,577) discloses in Fig 1-12 first 8 and second 8 brackets; and first and second lateral portions are connected 7 to one another along a line separate from said first and second lateral edges (Fig 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention, as disclosed by Lee et al. (5,934,544), to include first and second brackets; and first and second lateral

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portions are connected to one another along a line separate from said first and second lateral edges, as disclosed by Goto et al. (6,591,577), for attachment to a vehicle door and provide additional strength for the beam.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record in attached Notice of Reference Cited (PTO-892) and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. This art of record shows various features similar to the applicant's invention.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Primary Examiner Kiran B. Patel whose telephone number is 703-305-0254. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00 to 5:00. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.


Kiran B. Patel, P. E.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3612
July 10, 2004